

THE PRESIDENT: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Mr. President, I should like the Convention to know what Bradford Jacobs in the *Evening Sun* said on this question. "Probably the Constitutional Convention bent over backward to accommodate the labor lobbyists. Probably labor should not have been singled out, as it seems to have been, for the favor of a special narrow bill of rights of its own nestled inside the general broad bill of rights. Probably, as a result, the new constitution will be marred. It will have a curious special interest bulge at a point where no bulge ought to be in a document framed for all Marylanders, not for a few here and there."

Bradford Jacobs goes on to point out the problems which are inherent in this kind of a situation. I suggest to you that those of us who came down here to write this constitution should not do anything at all to provide the means by which this Convention can commit hari-kari, whether it be by a single fell-swoop of disembowelment, or whether it be by a bunch of small stabs. We have made some small stabs at it.

I sincerely hope that this Convention will afford as few opportunities as possible for the stabs which are going to be taken at us as they have been in the past. Some of us have seen a particularly scurrious sheet that got spread around here by an outfit calling themselves "Con-Con Guards" a couple of weeks ago. This is the sort of ammunition that is food for the people who do not understand what we are trying to do. Let us not give them any more food than is absolutely necessary. Let us not be divided.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. President, employees are the public, employees are the people.

There is another issue which should be touched on, and I do not remember hearing about this particular issue. It is not just a question of the next raise or the next set of vacations or the next year's working conditions. There is a lot more attached to bargaining than just these items.

After a man has been part of a plant and an employee at a plant for a matter of months or years, he has a certain vested interest in that job which can be protected only collectively and not as an individual.

He becomes part of a group insurance plan, he becomes part of a group pension plan, he acquires certain rights as an employee only through collective bargaining.

It is not just a question of worrying about whether or not he can get the vacation that he wants next year. There is a lot more to it than that. When he reaches a certain age, if he is arbitrarily fired from that job he will have extreme difficulty finding another job unless he has a very peculiar specialty. There is a lot more involved in this question than just what they generally think of as bargaining rights.

THE PRESIDENT: There is time for one more — it would be two more.

Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

If not, there is time for one other speaker.

Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. President, if we are to suddenly become pure and worry about special interest bulges in the constitution, some of us have a long list of bulge removers that we would like to apply, but I think this amendment is a very important amendment. It will not apply to every citizen of Maryland, only to the overwhelming number of citizens of Maryland.

It does not help anybody but the poor people of this State, those who are not now covered by the National Labor Relations Act.

I submit to you it is a matter of constitutional stature. We have given ample protection through the due process clause and the eminent domain clause to the rights of property for those who hold property as property normally is defined in the law and in constitutions as real property.

What we seek to do in this amendment is to give an equal protection under this constitution to those whose only property is their labor. Labor and property are equal parts of the economy of this State, and labor and property ought equally be protected by the constitution of this State.

There is no danger to the public welfare here. The General Assembly has ample power to protect the public welfare against strikes and to develop the kinds of labor standards and regulations of which Delegate Scanlan spoke. I implore you to reconsider and then to vote for the amendment, to protect equally an important and vital segment of the people of this State.